

I urge my colleagues to pass this bill, and help restore some much needed faith in Congress.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHIEF PETER CARNES

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2019

Mr. KEATING. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the retirement of Chief Peter Carnes, the Chief of Police and Director of Campus Safety at Stonehill College.

Chief Carnes has devoted his life to serving and protecting the people and communities across Massachusetts. He began his illustrious career with the Wenham Police Department in 1973. Chief Carnes progressed through the ranks, becoming Wenham's chief of police.

In 1995, Chief Carnes took on the task of heading up Cape Cod's third largest Police Department as Yarmouth's Chief of Police. He brought considerable positive change to the department during his time there. His citizen's police academy and Adopt-A-School programs played an essential role in bringing together the police department and the community through education. Beyond a career serving others, Chief Carnes still calls Cape Cod home, living in Yarmouth with his wife Karen and their son.

Chief Carnes took up his current post as Chief of Police and Director of Campus Safety at Stonehill College in 2008. He has embraced a proactive approach to safety and policing, engaging with and learning from the communities he serves. Chief Carnes' innovative approach to policing has continued to put him at the forefront of his field.

Unrelenting in his commitment to advancing the cause of policing and its principles, in addition to serving faithfully as Chief of Police at the Wenham, Yarmouth, and Stonehill police departments, Chief Carnes has led many of Massachusetts' most prodigious non-departmental policing bodies. He served as the President of the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association, The Essex County Chiefs of Police Association and the Cape Cod Chiefs Council. Chief Carnes' preeminence has allowed him to spread his community centered brand of policing to departments across Massachusetts. He has repeatedly exemplified the highest ideals of his profession throughout his years of leadership.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Chief Peter Carnes and his commitment to ensuring the safety of our community. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing his hard work and dedication as he celebrates his retirement.

ENERGY AND WATER RESEARCH
INTEGRATION ACT OF 2019

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2019

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Energy and Water Research Integration Act of 2019.

I first want to thank my friend, Mr. LUCAS, for joining me in introducing this legislation, which calls attention to the critical link between energy and water and instructs the Department of Energy to ensure due consideration of water issues in its research, development, and demonstration programs.

As we all know, especially those of us who represent Texas, Oklahoma, and other southwestern and western states, water is a very valuable and at times rare commodity nowadays. We have experienced crippling droughts in recent years, so it is vital that we do as much as possible to use this commodity wisely. However, not many people are aware of the importance of water to energy generation and, similarly, the crucial role that energy plays in the delivery of safe, sanitary water to our constituents.

The Energy and Water Research Integration Act is a proactive measure that takes into account recent studies produced by the Department of Energy and the Electric Power Research Institute, both of which have highlighted how closely connected energy production and water usage are. This bill encourages research into energy technologies that would improve and minimize the use of water in energy production, and also establishes a mechanism for federal agencies to work with state and local governments and other stakeholders to advance our understanding of what is known as the "energy-water nexus." In addition, the bill requires a regularly updated strategic plan to guide these efforts. These provisions are important, positive steps towards using our limited resources in the most efficient and effective way possible.

I would like to commend the Department of Energy for taking substantive action on this issue under the leadership of former Secretary Moniz and more recently under Secretary Perry. This bill will ensure that activities to address the energy-water nexus remain a priority within the Department, and provide additional tools to better guide these efforts well into the future.

The legislation Mr. LUCAS and I are introducing is a constructive, bipartisan measure and I urge all of my colleagues to support it. Working together, I hope that we can demonstrate a strong, sustained commitment to research and development in this vital area.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COMPASSIONATE ACCESS, RESEARCH EXPANSION AND RESPECT STATES (CARERS) ACT

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2019

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Compassionate Access, Research Expansion and Respect States Act, also known as the CARERS Act. This bipartisan bill would allow states to set their own policies on medical marijuana, allow states to import cannabidiol to treat patients with seizures, give the Veterans Administration physicians the ability to recommend medical marijuana to patients and improve opportunities for research on marijuana.

The consensus on medical marijuana is already overwhelming and continues to build.

According to a Quinnipiac University poll, 93 percent of Americans believe people should be allowed to use medically prescribed marijuana.

93 percent of Americans rarely agree on anything.

In November, Missouri and Utah joined a growing majority of states that have legalized medical marijuana. Thirty-two states plus the District of Columbia have approved medical marijuana.

Yet, our federal laws continue to treat patients and the doctors and families who care for them like criminals.

It is long overdue for our federal law to reflect the common sense views of 93 percent of Americans and stop adding to the suffering of those with horrible illnesses.

One such patient was my constituent, Chloe Grauer. At 3 years old, Chloe suffered from a rare neurological disease that caused her to have 100 to 200 seizures a day. She tried dozens of medications and underwent surgical procedures but nothing stopped the seizures.

Her family tried desperately to treat her with cannabidiol—also known as "Charlotte's Web" or "CBD" for short—which has been shown to treat certain diseases that cause seizures, such as the disease from which Chloe suffered. CBD is derived from cannabis plants, and even though it contains just trace amounts of the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana—nowhere near enough to produce a high—but it is currently illegal under federal law. Even this tiny amount of the ingredient, THC, was enough for the federal government to keep a potentially life-saving drug away from Chloe.

Chloe died without receiving CBD.

This should never have happened. We must ensure that this never happens again.

Just as our children deserve to be treated compassionately, so, too, do our veterans. Federal law currently prohibits VA doctors from prescribing medical marijuana when they feel it is medically beneficial. Our veterans deserve the best medical advice from their doctors, not arbitrary limits on what their doctors can do to help them. Veterans are tough. They can handle frank advice from their doctors.

I want to thank my colleague DON YOUNG of Alaska, for his partnership on this bill as well as Senator CORY BOOKER and the bipartisan coalition he is leading in the Senate on these issues. I urge both the House and Senate to pass this swiftly.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER IN-LIEU AND TREATY FISHING ACCESS SITES IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2019

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today, I am once again reintroducing the Columbia River In-Lieu and Treaty Fishing Access Sites Improvement Act. Last Congress we came so close to making this bill into law—passing it in the Senate and reporting it out of the House Natural Resources Committee. I am committed to finally passing this bill to improve the living conditions at the 31

Columbia River In-Lieu and Treaty Fishing Access Sites along the Columbia River.

This legislation calls for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to conduct a much-needed assessment of current conditions at the In-Lieu and Treaty Fishing Access sites under BIA ownership on both sides of the Columbia, in coordination with the four Columbia River treaty tribes: the Warm Springs, Umatilla, Nez Perce, and Yakama Nation. It authorizes the BIA to improve existing federal structures and infrastructure, improve sanitation and safety conditions, and increase access to electricity, sewer, and water infrastructure. BIA may contract with tribes and tribal organizations to conduct this important work that will lay a critical foundation for the construction of permanent tribal housing.

Congress must do more to help members of these four tribes who reside here after being displaced by decades ago by the construction of the Columbia River Dams and who never received the permanent replacement housing that was promised to them by the federal government. Those tribes have a treaty-protected right to fish along the river at their usual and accustomed places that must be respected.

I will continue to work with federal partners and tribal nations to see that the need for more permanent housing is fulfilled and tribal member's treaty rights are respected. In the meantime, Congress must improve the living conditions for the affected treaty tribe members, and we must pass this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CLAY HIGGINS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2019

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted on Roll Call No. 1.

INTRODUCTION OF CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ELIMINATE THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE AND PROVIDE FOR THE DIRECT ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2019

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of a constitutional amendment I introduced today to eliminate the electoral college and provide for the direct election of our nation's President and Vice President.

As Founding Father Thomas Jefferson said, "I am not an advocate for frequent changes in laws and constitutions, but laws and institutions must go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind. As that becomes more developed, more enlightened, as new discoveries are made, new truths discovered and manners and opinions change, with the change of circumstances, institutions must advance also to keep pace with the times. We might well as require a man to wear still the coat which fitted him when a boy as civilized

society to remain ever under the regimen of their barbarous ancestors."

In 2016, for the second time in recent memory, and for the fifth time in our history, the national popular vote winner did not become President because of the Electoral College. This has happened twice to candidates from Tennessee: Al Gore and Andrew Jackson.

The reason is because the Electoral College, established to prevent an uninformed citizenry from directly electing our nation's President, no longer fits our nation's needs.

When the Founders established the Electoral College, it was in an era of limited nationwide communication. The electoral structure was premised on a theory that citizens would have a better chance of knowing about electors from their home states than about presidential candidates from out-of-state. Electors were supposed to be people of good judgment who were trusted with picking a qualified President and Vice President on behalf of the people. They held the responsibility of choosing a President because it was believed that the general public could not be properly informed of the candidates and the values each held.

That notion—that citizens should be prevented from directly electing the President—is antithetical to our understanding of democracy today, and our electoral process has not evolved to match our abilities to communicate, collect information, and make informed decisions about candidates. The development of mass media and the internet has made information about presidential candidates easily accessible to U.S. citizens across the country and around the world. The people no longer need the buffer of the electoral college to be knowledgeable about and decide who will be president. Today, citizens have a far better chance of knowing about out-of-state presidential candidates than knowing about presidential electors from their home states. Most people do not even know who their electors are.

While our ability to communicate has evolved so has the Electoral College, but not in a positive way. Electors are now little more than rubber stamps who are chosen based on their political parties and who represent the interests of those political parties, rather than representing the people. Most states legally bind their electors to vote for whomever wins that state's popular vote, so electors can no longer exercise individual judgment when selecting a candidate.

In our country, "We the People," are supposed to determine who represents us in elective office. Yet, we use an anachronistic process for choosing who will hold the highest offices in the land.

It is time for us to fix this, and that is why I have introduced this amendment today.

Since our nation first adopted our Constitution, "We the People," have amended it repeatedly to expand the opportunity for citizens to directly elect our leaders:

The 15th Amendment guarantees the right of all citizens to vote, regardless of race.

The 19th Amendment guarantees the right of all citizens to vote, regardless of gender.

The 26th Amendment guarantees the right of all citizens 18 years of age and older to vote.

And the 17th Amendment empowers citizens to directly elect U.S. Senators.

We need to amend our Constitution to empower citizens to directly elect the President and the Vice President of the United States.

Working together, I know we can make our Constitution better reflect the "more perfect Union" to which it aspires.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 110TH BIRTHDAY OF IRENE MILLER

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2019

Mr. KEATING. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mrs. Irene Miller she who turned 110 years young on December 28, 2018.

Mrs. Miller has been a lifelong resident of New Bedford, Massachusetts. When asked about her growing up, she reminisced about her favorite childhood activities, sliding down Weld Street whenever it snowed and playing hopscotch. She married her first boyfriend and together they celebrated over fifty years of marriage. They went on to have two children, Paul and Marcia, and a continually growing family. Mrs. Miller now lives with her grandson.

Born in 1908, Mrs. Miller has lived through countless historical events, including eight of the nine World Series victories of her beloved Red Sox. In her free time, she loves to read and is described by friends as an absolute joy who brings happiness to everyone around her. She is known as "everyone's grandma," treating all her friends like family, and for her wit, humor, and laughter.

To celebrate her 110th birthday, she wishes for everyone to be happy, which is how she lives each day. We could all benefit by learning from Mrs. Miller's approach to life.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Irene Miller for a lifetime spent making her community a better place. I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing her a happy birthday and many more years of health and happiness.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF RETIRED MISSISSIPPI JUDGE CHARLIE BRETT

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2019

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Judge Charlie Brett. Judge Brett, a native of Lee County, Mississippi, is retiring after a long and distinguished career.

Upon graduation from Kosciusko High School, Judge Brett attended Mississippi State University where he graduated in 1968. Following his graduation, Judge Brett answered the call to serve his country and joined the United States Army where he served from 1969 to 1971. He then attended the University of Mississippi Law School where he earned his Juris Doctorate. During Judge Brett's time at law school he received several honors and served on the Moot Court Board.

This was the beginning of Judge Brett's long career. He served four years as the Prosecutor for the City of Tupelo and fourteen years as Lee County Prosecuting Attorney and Youth Court Prosecutor. Judge Brett has